

COVID-19

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING



Thursday, August 6, 2020

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES PHASED SAFE START PLAN FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

Today, Gov. Jay Inslee announced the phased Safe Start plan for Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF) to fully reopen facilities to visits of residents.

Governor announces phased Safe Start plan for Long Term Care Facilities

Gov. Jay Inslee and officials from DSHS and DOH today announced the "Safe Start for Long Term Care" plan. The plan establishes criteria for long-term care facilities to safely allow visitors, provide trips for residents outside the facility, group activities, and more. It goes into effect Wednesday, August 12. As with schools, allowable activities at LTCFs depends on sustained prevention of COVID-19 transmission in the community.

Long-term care facility status is based upon the general Safe Start plan, but takes additional factors into account. Those additional factors include [local virus activity](#), facility access to testing and personal protective equipment, and virus activity within the facility. Facilities may not move beyond their county's [Safe Start Phase](#).

Summary of allowed activity in the phased reopening approach.

- **Facilities in Phase 1 counties AND that meet all necessary requirements regarding staffing, PPE supplies, etc. AND where local COVID case rates per 100,000 residents exceed 75 over a 14-day period:**
 - Indoor visits are limited to compassionate care situations. Compassionate care situations include end-of-life circumstances and for psycho-social needs. Any such visit must follow strict safety protocol.
 - [Outdoor visits](#) are allowed and limited to two visitors per resident per visit. These visits must include masking, social distancing, and appropriate hygiene.
 - Facilities may invite "[window visits](#)" at their discretion with safety protocol in place.
 - Remote visitation must be facilitated in all Phases.
- **Facilities in Phase 2 counties AND that meet all necessary requirements regarding staffing, PPE supplies, etc. AND where local COVID case rates per 100,000 residents are between 25-75 over a 14-day period:**
 - Indoor visits are limited to compassionate care situations. Compassionate care situations include end-of-life circumstances and for psycho-social needs. Any such visit must follow strict safety protocol.
 - [Outdoor visits](#) are allowed. These visits must include masking, social distancing, and appropriate hygiene.
 - Facilities may invite "[window visits](#)" at their discretion with safety protocol in place.
 - Remote visitation must be facilitated in all Phases.
 - A designated "essential support person" may visit a resident once per day if the resident is unable to participate in outdoor visits and if remote visitation technology is unavailable.

- **Facilities in Phase 3 counties AND that meet all necessary requirements regarding staffing, PPE supplies, etc. AND where local COVID case rates per 100,000 residents is 10-25 over a 14-day period:**
 - Indoor visits are generally permitted, with limitations. Facilities will establish protocol for visitor hours, visitor limits, and safety precautions. Preference should be given to outdoor visits.
 - [Outdoor visits](#) are allowed and are subject to facility safety protocol.
 - Remote visitation must be facilitated in all Phases.
- **Facilities in Phase 4 counties AND that meet all necessary requirements regarding staffing, PPE supplies, etc. AND where local COVID case rates per 100,000 residents does not exceed 10 over a 14-day period:**
 - Regular visitation resumes.

Watch the recording of the press conference on tvw.org.

Details about the plan are available at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/famhelp-facility-status-and-information>.

VIDEO: HOW TO WEAR GLASSES AND A FACE COVERING

Is wearing a face covering with your glasses a big pain? Watch the quick video prepared by the Joint Information Center for a few easy tips for making your life a little less foggy.

Video: How to wear glasses and a face covering

Wearing glasses with face coverings can be tricky. The Joint Information Center prepared this quick video to provide a few easy tips on how to make them work better together.

[#MaskUpWA](#) [#WearaMaskWA](#)

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UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS DECLINE 10% IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

During the week of July 26 through August 1, initial regular unemployment claims decreased in Snohomish County by 10%.

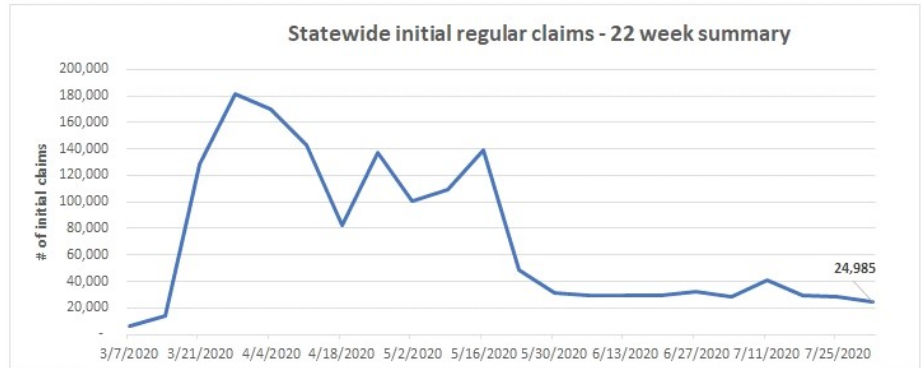
Unemployment claims decline 10% in Snohomish County

During the week of July 26 through August 1, initial regular unemployment claims decreased in Snohomish County from 3,199 to 2,899 down 10 percent from the week before, according to the Employment Security Department.

Statewide, there were 24,985 initial regular unemployment claims (down 13.4% from the prior week) and 656,556 total claims for all unemployment benefit categories (down 3.1% from the prior week) filed by Washingtonians, ESD reported.

Despite the declines, initial regular claims applications remain at elevated levels and are at 346 percent above last year's weekly new claims applications.

Meanwhile, the state has launched a [new benefits data dashboard](#) and plans weekly updates. For more information, read ESD's [full press release](#).



55 MARYSVILLE BUSINESSES RECEIVE CARES GRANTS

The City of Marysville recently awarded nearly a quarter-million dollars in federal CARES funds to 55 small businesses that have suffered financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

55 Marysville businesses receive CARES grants



The City of Marysville recently awarded nearly a quarter-million dollars in federal CARES funds to small businesses that have suffered financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of \$247,953 was awarded to 55 local small businesses through the city's Marysville CARES Business Rent Relief grant program unanimously approved by the City Council.

Grant recipients who documented substantial loss of income directly related to COVID-19 received payment or reimbursement of up to three months of business rent, lease or mortgage payments.

"Every opportunity to help Marysville businesses stay afloat during this difficult time is critical," Mayor Jon Nehring said.

The State of Washington distributed Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act funding to cities based on their populations. The City of Marysville is currently offering a residential Community Rent Relief Grant program with applications due Aug. 13.

LAKE STEVENS DISTRIBUTES NEARLY \$300,000 IN CARES FUNDS TO 44 BUSINESSES

The City of Lake Stevens recently distributed \$294,970 to 44 Lake Stevens businesses through the Lake Stevens Community Small Business Emergency Grant.

Lake Stevens distributes nearly \$300,000 in CARES funds to 44 businesses



The City of Lake Stevens distributed a total of \$294,970 to 44 Lake Stevens businesses through the Lake Stevens Community Small Business Emergency Grant in June of this year. This funding was provided by the Federal 2020 CARES Act. A second round of grant funding totaling \$105,030 was distributed to 16 businesses in late July of this year. Grants ranged from under a \$1,000 to \$10,000 per business, based on need for operational expenses including rent or mortgage and utility costs.

MLT OFFERS TEMPORARY OUTDOOR USE PERMITS

The City of Mountlake Terrace has created a Temporary Outdoor Use Permit for restaurants, retail and other businesses.

MLT Offers Temporary Outdoor Use Permits



restaurants, retail and other businesses.

In an effort to assist businesses during the Governor's "Safe Start Washington" program, as well as the city's desire to address the community's interest in allowing food trucks, the City of Mountlake Terrace has created a Temporary Outdoor Use Permit for

restaurants, retail and other businesses. The Temporary Outdoor Use Permit is intended for those businesses that may be able to expand their capacity to seat or service customers during a modified Phase 1, Phase 2 or Phase 3 of the Safe Start Washington Order. The business must follow physical distancing guidelines while resuming operations. All uses allowed under the Temporary Outdoor Use Permit are intended to be temporary and moveable. No permanent structures are allowed. Outdoor space may include a combination of sidewalk space and private parking areas, provided that safe

pedestrian and vehicle access is maintained, or limited opportunities for food trucks. The allowance of temporary outdoor uses should be mindful of adjacent business and residential occupancies.

The permit application can be submitted electronically to our Permit Specialists. All fees for this temporary permit are waived until further notice. The permits will be expedited to help our local businesses stay financially stable during the current economic downturn and the challenges of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The online temporary outdoor use permit can be found [here](#) or browse to <https://www.cityofmlt.com/DocumentCenter/View/22334/Temporary-Outdoor-Use-Permit> under Land Use Permit Applications. For more information about the Temporary Outdoor Use Permit, call the Community and Economic Development Department at (425) 744-6278.

COVID-19 AND WILDFIRE ARE A BAD MIX

There is concern about the health impacts of wildfire smoke overlapping with COVID-19 because both impact respiratory and immune systems. Specific guidance from the state Department of Health and the Department of Natural Resources is available.

COVID-19 and wildfire are a bad mix

This wildfire season will be especially challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is concern about the health impacts of wildfire smoke overlapping with COVID-19 because both impact respiratory and immune systems. COVID-19 restrictions limit how we can reduce our reduce exposure to wildfire smoke.

The state Department of Health has assembled a list of [questions and answers](#) about smoke from fires, plus [specific guidance during the pandemic](#).

The state Department of Natural Resources also offers [comprehensive information](#) and tools for managing wildfire risk, including an [interactive map](#) that details conditions and burn ban status statewide.

In Snohomish County, the areas with greatest wildfire risk are places where trees, shrubs and houses are mixed together. These areas are called the wildland urban interface. They are home to an estimated 128,000 people. Visit Snohomish County DEM's [interactive hazard map](#) for more information about local wildfire concerns.



VIDEO: DON'T RECYCLE FACE MASKS, GLOVES, AND DISINFECTANT WIPES

Republic Services is encouraging customers to brush up on tips for how best to reduce waste and recycle, and to take steps to keep face masks, gloves and disinfectants out of the recycle bin.

Video: Don't recycle face masks, gloves, and disinfectant wipes

With so many of people homebound right now, consumption of products and packaging is on the rise.

Republic Services is encouraging customers to brush up on [tips for how best to reduce waste and recycle](#), and to take steps to keep face masks, gloves and disinfectants out of the recycle bin.

[Twitter](#)

Lynnwood Streets Retweeted



Republic Services
@RepublicService

Face masks, gloves and disinfectant wipes are now part of our everyday, but none of these belong in the recycling bin. Watch our tips.

Face Masks? Definitely Not.



0:18 61 views

3:18 PM · Aug 5, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

WASHINGTON, COLORADO, NEVADA AND OREGON ANNOUNCE COORDINATION ON TELEHEALTH

Building on a previous announcement regarding COVID-19 re-opening the governors of Washington, Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon announced the states will be working together on telehealth issues.

Washington, Colorado, Nevada and Oregon announce coordination on telehealth

Building on a previous announcement regarding COVID re-opening, Gov. Jay Inslee joined Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak and Oregon Gov. Kate Brown to announce that their states will be working together on telehealth issues.

Joint statement from the states:

The coronavirus pandemic has heightened the demand for telehealth services nationally, and in our states. With patients reluctant to seek in person care due to exposure risk and transportation access issues, telehealth has offered a way for patients to connect with health providers while mitigating exposure risk. It has also highlighted some of the inequities of our healthcare systems. During the COVID-19 crisis, each state has sought flexibilities from the federal government to expand health services available through telehealth, modify payment policy for services provided using this modality, and expand the allowable technologies used to provide telehealth services. The federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has recently announced its intention to make permanent some of the telehealth flexibilities afforded during this pandemic. Telehealth is here to stay.

Our states have significant individual and collective experience with telehealth. To ensure that the nation benefits from our knowledge as changes to federal regulations are contemplated, to support continued application and availability of telehealth in our states, and to ensure that we address the inequities faced in particular by tribal communities and communities of color, we are announcing that Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and Washington have agreed to work together to identify best practices that support telehealth services for residents of our states. We will have individual state-driven approaches to implementing telehealth policies, but our work will be guided by seven overarching principles:

1. **Access:** Telehealth should be used as a means to promote adequate, culturally responsive, patient-centered equitable access to health care, and to ensure provider network adequacy.

2. Confidentiality: Patient confidentiality should be protected, and patients should provide informed consent to receive care and the specific technology used to provide it.
3. Equity: We will focus on improving equitable access to providers and addressing inequities and disparities in care. Telehealth should be available to every member, regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, income, class, disability, immigration status, nationality, religious belief, language proficiency or geographic location.
4. Standard of Care: Standard of care requirements should apply to all services and information provided via telehealth, including quality, utilization, cost, medical necessity and clinical appropriateness.
5. Stewardship: Our states will require the use of evidence-based strategies for the delivery of quality care, and will take steps to mitigate and address fraud, waste, discriminatory barriers and abuse.
6. Patient choice: Patients, in conjunction with their providers, should be offered their choice of service delivery mode. Patients should retain the right to receive health care in person.
7. Payment/reimbursement: Reimbursement for services provided via telehealth modalities will be considered in the context of individual state's methods of reimbursement.

We intend to work with our federal partners on telehealth and invite them to commit to a similar coordinated and principle-driven approach.

A SNAPSHOT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19 FROM THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

The National Domestic Violence Hotline recently outlined some of the impact that COVID-19 has on domestic violence victims and survivors in a blog and report.

A Snapshot of domestic violence during COVID-19 from the National Domestic Violence Hotline



Any external factors that add stress, isolation, and financial strain can create circumstances where a domestic violence survivor's safety is further compromised. The COVID-19 pandemic has elements of all three of these external factors. Even more concerning, shelter-in-place orders meant that many would be in closer and more frequent proximity to their abusers. The National Domestic Violence Hotline outlined more of the unique impact that COVID-19 has on domestic violence victims and survivors in our blog [here](#).

On March 16, 2020, the National Domestic Violence Hotline began collecting data to track exactly what impact COVID-19 had on those affected by relationship abuse. During the first two months of the pandemic, The Hotline found while slow at first, contacts to The Hotline increased by 9% compared to the same period in 2019. In addition, roughly 10% of all contacts cited COVID-19 as impacting their current situation. 90% of all contacts answered reported experiencing emotional or verbal abuse, where their abuser used threats, intimidation, or humiliation to gain power and control. 24% of all contacts reported economic or financial abuse in their situation – this is also something that may increase in the face of growing unemployment and the long-term economic challenges as a result.

Download the full report [here](#).

For any victims and survivors who need support reading this, the National Domestic Violence Hotline is available 24/7. Call 1-800-799-7233 or 1-800-787-3224 for TTY, or if you're unable to speak safely, you can chat at thehotline.org or text LOVEIS to 1-866-331-9474.

You are not alone.

VIDEO: DON'T CALL 911 DURING A PANDEMIC IF YOU FEAR GIANT HORNETS

The state Department of Agriculture encourages anyone who wants to report a sighting of an Asian Giant Hornet to call 1-800-443-6684 – NOT 911. Reports also can be made at agr.wa.gov/hornets.

Video: Don't call 911 during a pandemic if you fear giant hornets

Emergency dispatchers in Snohomish County have received a handful of calls this summer from people concerned about giant hornets. To be clear: none of these insects have been captured in Snohomish County. The state Department of Agriculture encourages anyone who wants to report a sighting to call 1-800-443-6684 -- NOT 911. Reports also can be made at agr.wa.gov/hornets

The Joint Information Center released a social media video Thursday at the request of Snohomish County 911, which sought help squashing these calls before they grow into a bigger problem. #InItTogether

[Facebook](#)

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CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID-19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Línea telefónica COVID-19 del condado de Snohomish: **425-388-7120**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help.

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of August 6, 2020)

Case Count	Last Updated: 3:00 p.m.
Confirmed	5,387 (up 42 cases from 8/5)
Probable	676 (down 1 from 8/5)
Deaths	190

Jurisdiction	Last Updated: 3:00 p.m.
Arlington	249 (147 recovered)
Bothell*	452 (260 recovered)
Brier	30 (23 recovered)
Darrington	<5 (<5 recovered)
Edmonds	514 (370 recovered)
Everett	1,772 (1,145 recovered)
Gold Bar	9 (<5 recovered)
Granite Falls	41 (30 recovered)
Index	0
Lake Stevens	279 (157 recovered)
Lynnwood	976 (684 recovered)
Marysville	518 (340 recovered)
Mill Creek	102 (57 recovered)
Monroe	211 (104 recovered)
Mountlake Terrace	170 (125 recovered)
Mukilteo	101 (75 recovered)
Snohomish	361 (189 recovered)
Stanwood	166 (117 recovered)
Sultan	30 (8 recovered)
Tulalip	44 (26 recovered)
Unknown/Other	<5 (<5 recovered)
Woodinville*	23 (14 recovered)
Woodway	10 (8 recovered)

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. *Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.